



## FRAT delivers

By Airman 1st Class  
Andrew Rouleau  
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A favorite part of the holiday season for many people is exchanging cards and gifts with friends and loved ones. Many military members overseas don't have the option of doing this in person, so they rely on the mail system to deliver these items.

The Frankfurt Aerial Mail Terminal is responsible for making this correspondence possible.

Major Robert Schutt, FRAT commander, said the mission of the FRAT is to distribute the mail throughout the theater, with pride, and as quickly and safely as possible.

"Our mission is sometimes overlooked, but I personally think it is an important one," Schutt said, "especially overseas and around the holidays."

Last year, FRAT members sorted through roughly 120 tons of total mail during the holiday season. The mail is down by about 11% compared to this time last year, Schutt said.

There are currently 74 servicemembers who regularly work mail, and there are also 17 augmentee workers who are helping out during the holiday season.

Even though the total amount of mail is down from last year, the volume that comes through the FRAT in December is still twice as much compared to other months, said Master Sgt. Lawrence Evans, chief of operations.

Photos by

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*Top, Staff Sgt. Jalana Watts unloads a trailer full of mail. Right, Don King, chief of maintenance, does a safety check on some netting that catches wayward mail.*



Processing such large amounts of mail requires hard work and good teamwork.

"This job entails a lot of physical labor," said Staff Sgt. Jalana Watts, day shift supervisor, "but we are able to work well together, so morale is good."

"I think working here is a nice change of pace," said Specialist Myia Nave, an augmentee worker stationed at Mannheim. "Working here has given me a whole new respect for postal people. I never realized how much mail comes through here everyday."

It is not just FRAT members who are responsible for distributing the mail, army personnel play an important role in the process, because they are the ones who transport the mail once it is sorted.

"The Army gets mail to and from the FRAT. They move and dock trailers, and transport mail to and from APO's," said Schutt. "We rely on them a lot and they do a good job."

The FRAT is currently undermanned and the augmentees have just brought the FRAT up to normal manning levels. This means they are all working extra hard, and Schutt praises them for their efforts.

"They are definitely earning their money this year," Schutt said. "They are putting in long days, they are professional and they always have a positive attitude."

So when opening cards and gifts from friends and loved ones during this holiday season, keep in mind the people and effort it takes to make it all possible.



*Specialist Myia Nave, an augmentee stationed at Mannheim, removes packages from a trailer.*



*Above, Airmen 1st Class Nakaei Williams scans packages into the computer system. Left, Airmen 1st Class Sandy Hernandez sorts through packages.*